"Even as he turned toward the most rigorous science of his day, physiology, he consumed cocaine to treat his neurasthenia, and he believed he had discovered, in 1884, its digestive benefits. (...)

Freud hoped to work toward a major discovery that would make him famous. Thus he threw himself into a historico-clinical study of the virtues of cocaine in the treatment of heart problems, depression, and conditions that resulted from morphine withdrawal. From the outset, he tried cocaine experimentally on himself as a miracle cure that was supposed to allow him to combat his neurasthenia and the devastating effects of his sexual abstinence (...)

The cocaine episode, which led to delirious interpretations among many commentators, has to be understood as an important stage in the young Freud's journey. He said one day that the study of coca had been an allotrion for him"

(Freud in his time and ours, 2016, Harvard University Press
p. 3-4)